

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application for further consideration. Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are not currently amended. Claim 7 is currently amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter has been added.

I. Rejection Of Claims 1-20 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,083,282 issued to Caron et al. ("Caron"). After setting forth each limitation of claims 1-20, the Office Action cites as follows:

"(abstract; Fig.1:10 and associated text; Fig. 2:48 and associated text; Fig. 4:70 and associated text; Fig. 5:90 and associated text; Fig. 6:200 and associated text; col. 3:46 to col. 4:47 (emphasis added to qualified name, unqualified name, and namespace); col. 8:22-65 (emphasis added to qualified name, unqualified name, and namespace))"

(Office Action, paragraphs 2-16 and 18). The exact same citation was referenced to reject each element of claims 1-20. This citation implicates the entire Caron reference.

The limitations of claim 1 simply are not taught or otherwise suggested by Caron. Claim 1 specifically recites "a definition data field defining the data structure as a first namespace, the first data field including a common name portion associated with the first namespace and a unique identifier portion associated with the first namespace, the common name portion being operative to identify the first namespace in a human-readable manner, the unique identifier

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portion being capable of distinguishing the first namespace from other namespaces." (Emphasis added).

Applicants can find no teaching or suggestion in Caron that a namespace comprises two portions let alone any teaching or suggestion of a common name portion and a unique identifier portion. In fact, Caron does not teach or otherwise suggest any of the limitations of claim 1. Caron teaches a method for compiling source code that is organized in a plurality of blocks of text. (Col. 10, line 13 - col. 11, line 62). The blocks include a plurality of outer blocks and inner blocks enclosed by the outer blocks. (Col. 10, lines 27-59). The method includes searching for a matching name of a program object in a namespace associated with the outermost block, which encloses the current inner block containing a unqualified referencing name. (Col. 10, lines 27-59). In the situation where a matching name is found, the unqualified reference name is bound to the program object having the matching name. (Col. 11, lines 27-44). Insofar as Caron fails to teach the limitations of independent claim 1, claim 1 is clearly allowable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Independent claims 8, 13 and 18 have similar language as claim 1. Claims 8 and 13 recite a "first namespace having a common name and a unique identifier." Claims 8 and 13 continue by reciting a "second namespace having an import declaration that causes the first namespace to be included within the scope of the second namespace, the import declaration defining a local name that identifies the first namespace by the common name and the unique identifier such that a declaration within the plurality of declarations in the first namespace is accessible in the scope of the second namespace by reference to the local name for the first namespace." Regarding claim 18, claim 18 recites the step of "declaring a first namespace with a

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unique namespace identifier, the first namespace including a common name and a plurality of declarations." Claim 18 continues by reciting the step of "importing the first namespace into a second namespace using the unique namespace identifier and a local name." Claim 18 also recites the step of "accessing a declaration within the plurality of declarations in the first namespace within the scope of the second namespace by reference to the local name." In that the cited art fails to teach or otherwise suggest any of these limitations, applicants assert that independent claims 8, 13 and 18 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) for at least the same reasons set forth above in support for claim 1.

Claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19-20 are dependent claims, which ultimately depend from independent claims 1, 8, 13 and 18, respectively. The limitations of 2-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19-20 are not taught or otherwise suggest by the cited art. Furthermore, insofar as claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-17 and 19-20 depend from claims 1, 8, 13 and 18, respectively, the same are thought allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above.

II. Rejection of Claim 2 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

In the alternative to the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection set forth above, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of Caron. Applicants respectfully disagree with the above-stated rejection. Applicants assert that the prior art cannot be modified in the manner suggested in the Office Action. Also, all the limitations of claim 2 is not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited art. Furthermore, the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection depends from the above-stated 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection. The claims are clearly patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), and therefore, the Office Action's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) assertions fail.

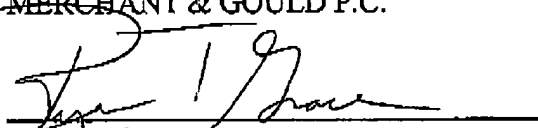
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As stated above, the single citation used to reject every single limitation of the present invention implicates the entire Caron reference. Applicants request that the Examiner point out with specificity some teaching or suggestion in the prior art that renders the claims of the present invention unpatentable. *See* 37 CFR 1.104; MPEP § 707. Absent such a teaching or suggestion, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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